Circular rail between Dumdum and Kolkata airport

*32. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the section of circular rail between Dumdum to Kolkata airport was sanctioned;

(b) the total expenditure incurred, so far, for completion of this project;

(c) the number of passengers travelled in this section in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 year-wise; and

(d) the revenue earned by Railways during these corresponding period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) The details are being collected and information will be laid on the Table of the House.

In-train catering in long distance trains

*33. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend in-train catering in other long distance trains;

(b) what is the criterion of attaching pantry cars in trains; and

(c) what steps are being taken to extend the service to all long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Attachment of Pantry Cars to the trains is considered based on various factors such as priority of the train, journey time, commercial justification, availability of pantry cars etc.

(c) Attachment of pantry car to the trains is planned as per the availability of new pantry cars. Further, in order to provide catering services on trains where pantry car is not available, train side vending facilities are provided. Catering requirement of the traveling passengers is also met through static units at the railway stations enroute.

Testing of blood samples of foreign visitors to India

*34. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that some new cases of suspected Swine Flu have been reported in various cities of the country during the last two weeks;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether blood samples of foreign tourists are being taken for tests right on their arrival in India, as the persons of suspected Swine Flu identified so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by Government to tackle this dreaded virus from spreading out in the country, particularly States which are recognized as foreign tourists' destination like Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 30th June, 2009 there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine] in our country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) On World Health Organization informing about the influenza A/H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu], Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints through an informative health screening card and is still continuing. On an average 45,000 passengers are screened daily. About 27 lakh passengers have been screened. 211 passengers with symptoms were isolated in identified health facilities and tested for influenza A/H1N1 infection. The communication efforts have resulted in nearly 500 passengers with symptoms self reporting [as on 30th June, 2009].

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. In addition to trained rapid response teams and team of physicians at state level, district level teams are undergoing training to investigate outbreak and to manage them. Professional bodies such as Indian Medical Association, Indian Academy of Pediatrics and National Academy of Medical Sciences have been involved for continuing medical education of doctors in the private sector.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Storage of procured wheat stock

*35. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat procurement in the on-going rabi season has surpassed last year's record while the old stocks still block godowns;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the capacity of various godowns of FCI is not in a position to stock fresh wheat stocks; and

(d) if so, the strategies being adopted by FCI/Government to store the fresh wheat stocks?